

They Begged to Give

2 Cor. 8:3-6

2 Cor 8:3 *To their power (ability), I bear record (I can testify; I can bear witness to the fact), yea, and beyond their power (beyond their ability; more than they could afford) they were willing of themselves (they did it voluntarily, I did not nag them or put them on a guilt trip);*

Macedonian churches didn't need any visual reminders of their responsibility Macedonian churches gave much more than expected given their situation.

They begged Paul for the privilege to give

2 Cor 8:4 *Praying us (begging us) with much entreaty (request, petition, plea) that we would receive the gift* 2 Cor 9:7

Wiersbe: *Their giving was voluntary and spontaneous. It was of grace, not pressure. ...The grace of God will open your heart and your hand. Your giving is not the result of cold calculation, but of warm-hearted jubilation.*

Fellowship: participation, distribution

...ministering to the saints: Serving; relief and support.

Showing believers in Jerusalem they were comrades in Christ as well as servants in Lord.

Heart becomes loyal where treasure is. Mat 6:19-21

2 Cor 8:5 *And this they did, gave contribution to offering. not as we hoped: didn't give what expected.. went way beyond highest hopes.... first gave their own selves ... first priority to fall on faces before God and say, Dear Lord, it all belongs to you! Lord, we are giving ourselves, our families, our businesses , our futures, our hopes, our goals, our dreams to you.*

Give ourselves to Lord-- little problem giving substance to Lord.

Show me a church in the midst of revival where its people have given themselves to God and I'll show you a church that has a large weekly offering in proportion to its membership.

Step 1: Gave themselves unto the Lord.

Step 2: Gave themselves to the Leadership Ex.14:31

Tasker: *In addition to giving their alms, they had placed themselves unreservedly in the apostle's hands for service of Christ, and regarded this submission as a matter of supreme importance.*

Plummer: *The crowning point of their generosity was their complete self-surrender.*

Go hand in hand

1. Giving oneself to the Lord- Commitment
2. Giving oneself to God's servant- Service
3. Giving offerings to the Lord-Stewardship

5 things true in every Christian that is joyfully fulfilled ...

1. Yielded
2. Committed finances to God
3. Discovered spiritual gift and using it
4. Fulfilling passion in ministry
5. Understands temperament

2 Cor 8:6 *Insomuch that we desired Titus,*

1 yr previous, the Corinthians challenged to start this offering.

Paul's attitude toward slacking off --send Titus to get job finished!